

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03
INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03
SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SS-15 CEA-01 STR-06
/093 W

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R 271708Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5295

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E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS: EAID, ECIN, ETRD, GW
SUBJECT: PROPOSAL RE US/FRG CONSULTATIONS

REF: (A) STATE 018000; (B) 77 BONN 10622

SUMMARY: IN VIEW OF THE INCREASING NEED FOR US-
FRG COORDINATION ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ISSUES,
EMBASSY RECOMMENDS PERIODIC CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN
SUB-CABINET OFFICIALS IN BONN AND WASHINGTON. IF
SENIOR US AND GERMAN OFFICIALS ARE DIRECTLY
INFORMED ABOUT THE OTHERS' POSITIONS, COOPERATION
WILL BE FACILITATED AND THE EFFECTIVENESS OF OUR
INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC INITIATIVES WILL BE ENHANCED.
FOR SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS, SEE PARAGRAPH 6 BELOW.
END SUMMARY.

1. WITH THE GROWING IMPORTANCE OF ECONOMIC AND
FINANCIAL ISSUES IN OUR FOREIGN POLICY, THE EMBASSY
HAS BEEN STRUCK BY THE FACT THAT BILATERAL CON-
SULTATIONS BETWEEN THE US AND FRG ON THESE ISSUES
HAVE BEEN FAR LESS ACTIVE THAN WITH THE OTHER
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MAJOR INDUSTRIAL PARTNERS.

2. WHILE WE ARE AWARE THAT US-FRG CONSULTATIONS
ARE CONTINUALLY TAKING PLACE AT MULTILATERAL
MEETINGS, OUR VIEWS ON THESE OCCASIONS ARE
FILTERED THROUGH FRG OFFICIALS WHO MAY OFTEN
HAVE SPECIAL AXES TO GRIND, AND THEIR REPORTS

TO BONN MAY BE UNDERSTANDABLY DISTORTED. THERE HAVE ALSO BEEN A NUMBER OF VISITS TO BONN FROM CONGRESSIONAL STAFFDELS, NORMALLY INTERESTED IN THE GERMAN POINT OF VIEW OR APPROACH IN A PARTICULAR AREA, BUT THE FACT THAT THESE PEOPLE DO NOT REPRESENT THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH LIMITS THE USEFULNESS OF SUCH VISITS.

3. WE BELIEVE IT IS IMPORTANT FOR GERMAN OFFICIALS TO BE INFORMED DIRECTLY ABOUT US ATTITUDES AND APPROACHES TOWARDS VARIOUS PROBLEMS. REGULAR PERIODIC CONSULTATION IN BONN AND WASHINGTON WOULD HELP US OBTAIN GERMAN VIEWS REPRESENTING THE FULL SPECTRUM OF THE GERMAN BODY POLITIC AND WOULD MAKE IT EASIER TO COORDINATE OUR EFFORTS WHEN CONFRONTING PROBLEMS OF AN URGENT NATURE. PERHAPS THIS COULD BE ACHIEVED THROUGH SEVERAL VISITS A YEAR IN EACH DIRECTION FROM ASSISTANT SECRETARIES AND DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARIES OF DIFFERENT

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BUREAUS, SUCH AS ARE NOW COMMON WITH THE UK AND FRANCE. MORE FORMAL INSTITUTIONALIZED CONSULTATIONS AT SUB-CABINET LEVELS, SUCH AS ARE NOW REGULARLY CONDUCTED WITH THE EC AND JAPAN,

MIGHT ALSO BE CONSIDERED.

4. THE EMBASSY MAKES THIS SUGGESTION IN VIEW OF THE TENDENCY TO VIEW CONSULTATIONS WITH EUROPE AS ACHIEVED THROUGH VISITS TO PARIS, LONDON AND PERHAPS BRUSSELS. WHILE ALL THESE CAPITALS ARE IMPORTANT, THE FRG, AS EUROPE'S LARGEST ECONOMY, SHOULD HAVE THE SAME LEVEL OF CONTACT, EVEN IF BONN IS SLIGHTLY LESS CONVENIENT TO REACH.

5. THIS IS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT IF WE HOPE FOR A UNIFIED APPROACH TO NORTH/SOUTH ISSUES. FOR EXAMPLE, THE RECENT VISIT OF USAID OFFICIALS TO PARIS, CONCERNING AFRICA (SEE REFTEL A) COULD USEFULLY HAVE INCLUDED TALKS IN BONN. THE FRG HAS THE RESOURCES AND ITS COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE ARE CRUCIAL IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DEALING EFFECTIVELY WITH THESE ISSUES. RECENT EXAMPLES OF EFFECTIVE BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS IN BONN AT AN APPROPRIATE LEVEL ARE THE VISITS OF DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARIES HORMATS AND EHRENHAFT.

6. IN VIEW OF THESE CONSIDERATIONS, EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT OFFICIALS OF STATE, AS WELL AS OTHER US GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, ATTEMPT TO INCLUDE BONN IN THEIR ITINERARY AS OFTEN AS POSSIBLE, AND THAT OUR PROPOSAL (REF B) FOR MORE FORMAL, INSTITUTIONAL CONSULTATIONS, BE GIVEN SERIOUS CONSIDERATION.

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